

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method for liquid preparation of ~~one or more~~ photographic reagents that require heat-melting prior to use, the method of comprising the steps of:

- (i) transferring, with a pump, a photographic reagent to a measuring tank via piping without being heated;
- (ii) measuring the amount of photographic reagent transferred to the measuring tank;
- (iii) after measuring, heat-melting the photographic reagent; and
- (iv) ~~when preparing two or more photographic reagents, repeating steps (i) to (iii) for~~ each additional batch of liquid photographic reagent to be prepared.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the photographic reagent is a prepared liquid of silver halide emulsion for use in a heat-developable photosensitive material.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which comprises measuring, in said measuring tank, the amount of photographic reagent transferred to the measuring tank.

20. (canceled).

21. (canceled).

22. (canceled).

23. (new): The method according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of driving the pump to rotate backwards so that air is blown into the piping from a transfer-directional end of the piping for backward washing of an interior of the piping.